production for 1992-93 is 5 per cent, Even he mentioned about the Economic Survey. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has said that the GDP will increase by 4 per cent. There is a correct corelation and we are projecting a production of 5 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much do you expect in the small-scale sector ? That is what he wants to know.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : That is 5 per cent, Sir. For 1992-93 it is 5 per cent.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The Economic Survey says only 3 per cent. It says it may further go down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That was before the Budget.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : What are the terms of reference to the Committee ? My second question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have permitted only one supplementary. Q.No. 123.

Non implementation of 'Cash and Carry Scheme' by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries

*123. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :†

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are not implementing the 'cash and carry scheme' despite the directives of Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are implementing the Cash and Carry Scheme as applicable to the power sector with effect from 1-10-91 in accordance with the instructions of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Normally the Coal Minister's replies are firm, clear and full of information. But today's reply is nothing of that sort. May I know from the Minister (a) whether the arrears due to Coal India Limited have gone down ? (b) whether the Coal India Limited have earned additional benefits of profits by implementing 'Cash and Carry Scheme' ? (c) May I also know whether the Coal India Limited is facing lot of problems in implementing 'Cash and carry scheme' ?

Sir, the Coal India Limited had secured an advance payment worth of Rs. 150 crores from small upcountry coal consumers about a year back for moving out 50 per cent of the sponsored coal by road but till today Coal India Limited is not able to refund the money or load the coal despite instructions from the Coal Ministry that they must refund the money with 18 per cent interest.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : Sir, as

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal.

on the 31st September, 1991, the total arrears from the power sector were Rs. 1800 crores. That Rs. 1800 crores remains as a due till today because we have also not made any serious attempt to recover that money realising the financial position of the Electricity Boards. So that Rs. 1800 crores arrears are still there. Of course, recently I have addressed a letter to all the Chief Ministers so that they start paying their money.

Now in view of the mounting arrears of Rs. 1800 crores, the Ministry of Coal took a decision that from the 1st October, 1991, Coal India Limited will supply coal to the power sector only on advance payment. This was implemented from the 1st October and it is doing quite well and smoothly.

As on 31st January, 1992 our total collection under the 'Cash and carry scheme' in four months has been Rs. 1,454 crores. So a substantial amount has helped the position of Coal India. This is (b) part of your question. Regarding part (c) of your question. I have already explained that there is not much of a problem in implementing the 'Cash and carry scheme. It is doing quite well. That is part (b) of your question. I have already explained part (c) of the question. There is not much of problem in implementing it. The system of "cash and carry" is going on quite well. Reply to part (d) of the question is that non-core sector, particularly the small-scale sector, had deposited an amount of Rs. 180 crores and till today they have not been able to get their coal. It is true. I am very sorry about it. It is quite unfortunate. This was brought to my notice quite recently. I had a meeting with the representatives of the industry. We have given instructions to the Coal India that the arrears of dispatching coal must be liquidated by April 30.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : I would like to ask one more very specific question. Is it a fact that the Coal India Ltd. was planning to ask the coal consumers to pay cash a day prior to the actual date of loading whereas the Coal India Ltd. had no capacity to actually move out coal within 24 hours of receiving cash?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : As far as the question of "cash and carry' is concerned, our instructions from the Ministry are confined only to the power sector. In regard to supply of coal to other sectors, we do not interfere with Coal India because they are commercial transactions. As far as the non-core sector is concerned, the present system of payments is through bank guarantees. They give the bank guarantee and then they are given the coal delivery order. After the coal is loaded, a bill is submitted to them. After the submission of the bill, they are required to pay the amount within 48 hours, which the industry has been doing. We have no arrears of payments from the non-core sector. They are very good pay-masters. I think this present arrangement is quite good enough, but we have not interfered with Coal India. It is for the Coal India to decide about their commercial transactions.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : One more question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have asked two supplementaries

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : The hon. Minister has said they are required to pay within 48 hours, but I am told for loading Coal even bank guarantees are not being accepted by them.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : This is being accepted, Sir. Of course, at one stage there was a little confusion for us.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : I think the reply of the hon. Minister to the question posed by our friend, Mr. Hanspal, is quite satisfactory. I have only a small supplementary to ask. Will the hon. Minister consider making this scheme of "cash and carry' applicable to other important sectors of the industry also?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, our arrangement with other sectors are going on very well. For example, as far as the supply of coal to railways and steel sector is concerned we have no problem at all. When we come to the cement sector, the cement sector makes an advance payment of 15 days and coal is supplied to them. That arrangement is also going on very well. Then the third category is the non-core sector, the small-scale industries. I have replied in that reard. They give bank guarantee and when the coal is loaded a bill is submitted and within 48 hours they should pay. They are really paying it. So, we have no complaint about that at all. Fourth category is the power sector. There we have strictly implemeted the "cash and carry" system.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: I am very happy that the Minister has said that the system is doing very well and is very business like. I have no objection to your charging money. I have the information that the Gujarat Government have been paying in advance, but Mr. Minister how fair is your business practice? You charge for one particular quantity and you short-supply it by 20 per cent. You charge for a superior quality and you give a totally inferior quality.

If you think that this is a fair business practice, then I have nothing to say. My categorical charge is that this is nothing but outright cheating. Gujarat is dependent totally on coal. You will appreciate that is the farthest point from where the coal comes. If coal is costing 400 rupees a ton for Madhya Pradesh, it is costing Rs. 1,000/- per ton for Gujarat and ultimately, Mr. Minister, it is the consumers who are paying. Why should the consumer take it lying down for the short supply of coal for the inferior quality of coal? Would you consider paying all the compensation for all along where 20 per cent short supply has been given for the State of Gujarat? What are you going to do to take measures to ensure that this does not occur in future because the gas which has been committed by the Central Government for our power plants, has not seen the light of day and the people of Gujarat are terribly agitated ? Kindly take this very seriously and please tell me what you are going to do to make sure that these things do not occur. I would like to know whether you will give compensation for the past misdeeds. Thank you.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, the hon, Member is referring to a particular incident which took place a few months ago.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Not a few months ago. Generally, 20 per cent short supply has been there.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I know that. This question was raised by my friend, Shri Vithalbhai M. Patel.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : But you didn't reply on that day.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Frankly speaking, that day, I also did not have much information about that. I must confess that. There have been some complaints about underloading resulting in shortage of coal and while loading, it is not being loaded fully. Now, in this particular

case, Sir, the Railways have made a surpirse check and they discovered that a particular quantity of coal which was going for Gujarat was underloaded to the tune of 20 per cent, which is correct. This was the report of the Railways. When this was brought to my notice, we have taken an appropriate action against the officers who were responsible for that and they have been suspended. We had a meeting with the representatives of the Gujarat Government and that matter has been sorted out mutually with the Government of Gujarat and the Coal India Limited. As far as that particular matter is concerned, it is closed now. Of course, we are taking steps to ensure that our consumers not only get the quality but also the quantity that they are paying for. But I must admit, Sir, that in such a transaction of huge quantities, sometimes some lapses here and there do occur and whenever it is brought to our notice, we do take appropriate action.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: What about the compensation for the past misdeeds—shortages? (*Interruptions*). You should answer that. (*Interruptions*). Sir, a part of my question has not been answered, compensation for the past misdeeds.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is there a system of giving compensation?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: But there was never a system of 'cash and carry'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So you want a new policy?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: You can always start a new system.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to start a new policy of giving compensation?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: It is the consumer who is paying finally for the electricity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has understood your point. If he wants, he can answer it. If he does not want to answer, I can't force him to do so.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I have said here that we have Rs. 1800 crores of arrears from the Electricity Boards still due to us today. Out of that Rs. 1800 crores, Rs. 1300 are undisputed. Rs. 500 crores are disputed because there is a dispute about the size of coal, there is a dispute about the quantity of coal, there is a dispute about the quality of coal and there is a mechanism to go into it with the joint inspection and then matters are sorted out. In fact, an amount of Rs. 500 crores is in dispute today. We have already put our machinery in motion to discuss with the State Governments and the Electricity Boards to sort out this problem. it is a problem between the consumeres and the Coal India. We will sort it out.

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदय; वास्तविकता यह है कि कोयले का जो निर्धारित मूल्य है और कोयले का बाजार में जो वास्तविक मूल्य है, उसमें दोगुने से अधिक का अंतर है, लगभग 400 रुपए टन निर्धारित मूल्य है, किन्तु कोयला वास्तव में एक हजार रुपए टन के आसपास बाजार में उपलब्ध होता है। इतना अधिक अंतर होने के कारण भ्रष्टाचार होता है, परमिट जो दिए जाते हैं, उनमें दुरुपयोग होता है, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्रीजी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि अब जबकि नई औद्योगिक नीति में उदारपन और खुलापन अपनाया गया है, तो क्या कोयले के संबंध में भी इस तरह के भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने के लिए और लगभग दोगुना मुनाफा और दोगुना अंतर...

श्री सभापति : यह प्रश्न "कैश एण्ड कैरी" स्कीम पर है।

श्री अजीत जोगी : उसी पर आ रहा हूं, दोगुना अंतर होने के कारण जिस तरह से आपने "कैश एण्ड कैरी" की योजना के माध्यम से इस भ्रष्टाचार

को एक सेक्टर में कम किया है, उसे समस्त सेक्टरों में कम करने के लिए क्या कुछ चुनिंदा सेक्टरों को छोड़कर जोकि अति-आवश्यक हैं और आम आदमी से संबंधित हैं, बाकी जितने भी सेक्टर उद्योगों से संबंधित हैं, उनके लिए क्या आप इसी तरह की खुलेपन की योजना अपनाकर बाजार को ही कोयले का मूल्य निर्धारित करने देंगे और इस "कैश एण्ड कैरी" योजना को दूसरे सेक्टर्स तक बढ़ायेंगे ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, there is bound to be difference in the prices of coal at different places because we fix the administered price at the pithead and from there it is transported. So, it will depend on the mode of transportation also. If the coal is transported by rail, it will become cheaper and if it is transported by road, it is bound to become costlier. Over and above the administered price there are local taxes and royalty. Therefore, there cannot be a uniform price of coal everywhere in the country. It has to be different from place to place. (*Interruptions*).

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि मंत्री महोदय लगातार विभिन्न बयानों के जरिए कहते रहे हैं कि "कैश एण्ड कैरी" की स्कीम अर्थात् "दाम दो और माल लो" की यह जो स्कीम है, वह कोल इंडिया को उसके वित्तीय संकट से उबारने की योजना है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूं कि मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्वीकार किया है, लघु उद्योगों के एक शिष्ट मंडल के साथ इनकी एक बैठक हुई थी जिस बैठक में इन्होंने स्वीकार किया है कि लघु उद्योगों का बहुत-सा रुपया कोल इंडिया के पास है और यह अभियोग है कि कोल इंडिया के पास लघु उद्योगों का डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपया जमा है। तो यह "कैश एण्ड कैरी" की जो स्कीम है, यह लघु उद्योगों से फल फूल रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या यह सच है कि कोल इंडिया के पास डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपया जमा है और कोयले के आधार पर चलनेवाले विभिन्न उद्योगों का 75 प्रतिशत हिस्सा आज इस कारण बंद पड़ा है क्योंकि उनको कोयले की आपूर्ति नहीं हो रही है। इसके साथ ही इससे जुड़ा हुआ मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि मंत्री महोदय बता रहे थे कि किस तरह से कोयले के दामों में अंतर आता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय को बहुत स्पष्ट उदाहरण देकर बताना चाहूंगी कि तारा कोयला खदान में कोयले के प्रतिटन उत्पादन पर खर्च 1445 रुपए आता है जबकि उनका बिक्री का दाम सिर्फ 180 रुपए टन है। तो यह जो इतना बड़ा अंतर है, इतनी बड़ी जो खाई है, यह कैसे होती है और इस राशि का कैसे उपयोग होता है या दुरुपयोग होता है, यह मंत्री जी बतायेंगे तो कृपा होगी ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir I do not think I have made any contradictory statements or different statements as far as the Cash and Carry Scheme is concerned. If the hon .Member can point out where I have made any contradictory statement, I am willing to correct it. But as far as recollect, I have never made any contradictory statement.

As far as the amount of Rs. 150 crores is concerned, I have already stated that I have issued instructions that it is to be liquidated by the 30th of April. That is the maximum I could do as the Minister.

As far as the cost and price of coal is concerned, I have already answered it in reply to the previous question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 124.

*124. [*The questioner (Shri S. Madhavan) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 42-43 Infra]